

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05
OES-09 OMB-01 AID-05 /082 W
-----031268 111243Z /47

R 101155Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7853
DEA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE

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POSTS FOR DEA, HQS FOR ENM AND IGIE; SECSTATE FOR SNM AND NEA/PAB
FROM SAIC TARALLO

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJ: ABOLISHMENT OF OPIUM VENDS IN JHELUM AND SIALKOT, PUNJAB

1. IN OUR ONGOING ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE PNCB WE HAVE CONTINUED TO STRESS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE SOLUTIONS TO THE GOP'S OPIUM VENDING SYSTEM. AS IT PRESENTLY EXISTS, LICENSED VENDORS ARE ALLOWED TO DEAL MULTI-TON QUANTITIES OF ILLICIT OPIUM THROUGH THEIR FACILITIES WITH THE TACIT APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT. BY THIS METHOD THE GOP COLLECTS REVENUE ONLY AT THE YEARLY AUCTIONING OF OPIUM LICENSES WHILE THE BIDDER/LICENSEE REAPS THE PROFITS OF HIS ILLICIT OPIUM SALES WHICH ARE WELL ABOVE THE ORIGINAL QUOTA.

2. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PUNJAB EXCISE AND TAX AGENCY THE PNCB HAS IMPLEMENTED A PILOT PROGRAM WHICH ABOLISHES OPIUM VENDS IN TWO DISTRICTS OF THE PROVINCE, JHELUM AND SIALKOT. THEY HAVE
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COMMENCED THE REGISTRATION OF ADDICTS IN THESE AREAS AND ARE ISSUING SPECIAL ID CARDS FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY. ONCE REGISTERED, THE ADDICT IS ALLOWED A RATIONING OF 10 TABLETS OF OPIUM (GOVERNMENT MADE) AT A NOMINAL COST. THE DISBURSING IS STRICTLY CONTROLLED BY GOP FACILITIES ONLY. A BACKUP ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM HAS ALSO BEEN INITIATED FOR THE MONITORING OF THOSE WHO FALSELY DECLARE THEMSELVES ADDICTED TO OPIUM.

3. THIS PROGRAM WHICH IS IN ITS INFANCY STAGE MAY HELP THE GOP TO
GET A BETTER HANDLE ON ITS ADDICTION POPULATION AS WELL AS STOP
THE MULTI-TON TRAFFICKING OF OPIUM THRU LICENSED VENDS WHO IN
TURN HELP PROMULGATE ILLEGAL OPIUM CULTIVATION IN PAKISTAN.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, VENDORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA07853
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780328-1013
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780879/aaaacnuw.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6ed25b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SNM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1781048
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABOLISHMENT OF OPIUM VENDS IN JHELMUM AND SIALKOT, PUNJAB
TAGS: SNAR, PK
To: STATE DEA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ed25b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014